

The following claims are presented for examination:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an email message from a sender;

obtaining a presence status of the sender from a presence server, wherein the presence status indicates a presence status of the sender across plurality of domains;

delivering the email message to a recipient with an indication of a presence of the sender on one or more of the domains; and

**wherein the presence server determines the presence status of the sender based on a rule that aggregates at least two items of presence information that are conflicting with each other.**

**wherein the presence status is obtained if and only if the recipient has a permission to receive the sender's presence status.**

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the presence server extracts presence information from a plurality of presence data stores.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the presence server translates the presence information to a standard format.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the recipient responds to the sender in another domain.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the presence information indicates if the message sender can be reached at one or more indicated devices.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the presence information is obtained from a user registration process.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the presence information is obtained by observing activities of a user.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the recipient can respond to the sender in real time.

**10.** (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the recipient can respond to the sender in non-real time.

**11.** (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the recipient can respond to the sender using a non-textual form of communication.

**12.** (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of domains is a plurality of client domains.

**13.** (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of domains is a plurality of server domains.

---

**14-18.** (Canceled)

---

**19.** (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a memory; and  
at least one processor, coupled to the memory, operative to:  
receive an email message from a sender;  
obtain a presence status of the sender from a presence server, wherein the presence status indicates a presence status of the sender across a plurality of domains;  
deliver the email message to a recipient with an indication of a presence of the sender on one or more of the plurality of domains; and  
**wherein the presence server determines the presence status of the sender based on a rule that aggregates at least two items of presence information that are conflicting with each other.**

**wherein the presence status is obtained if and only if the recipient has a permission to receive the sender's presence status.**

**20.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the presence server extracts presence information from a plurality of presence data stores.

**21.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the presence server translates the presence information to a standard format.

**22.** (Canceled)

**23.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the recipient responds to the sender in another domain.

**24.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the presence information indicates if the message sender can be reached at one or more indicated devices.

**25.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the recipient can respond to the sender using a non-textual form of communication.